

## Reauthorizing the USA PATRIOT Act

“The [expiring Patriot Act] authorities, all of which are conducted with full court review and approval, are critical to our national security.” – FBI Director Robert Mueller, March 15, 2011

- **Investigative tools in the Patriot Act have helped keep America safe from a major terror attack for nearly a decade.**
  - These investigative tools have become key parts of successful terror investigations, reportedly including the [one](#) that foiled a planned 2009 plot against the New York City subway system.
- **Democrats in Congress have repeatedly pushed plans to weaken existing anti-terror tools.**
  - These proposals would take us back to the pre-September 11<sup>th</sup> state of the law – a situation in which antiquated investigative tools left America vulnerable to attack.
  - Many of these changes would put greater burdens on anti-terror investigations than on run-of-the-mill criminal law enforcement.
  - Failure to reauthorize existing Patriot Act authorities, and the proposals to dilute them, would inject instability into the law enforcement and intelligence communities as they fight the war on terror.
- **Intelligence and law enforcement experts of both parties agree on the need to extend these authorities.**
  - Former Attorney General Michael Mukasey and former C.I.A. Director Michael Hayden recently [wrote](#) that the terror plots we face today “are best eliminated by quick action under the provisions of the USA Patriot Act” that are currently set to expire.
  - Senator Feinstein, Chairman of the Intelligence Committee, has said: “Authorities like the three set to expire this Friday may well prove critical to thwarting new plots and finding terrorists. They must be renewed.”
- **Senators McConnell and Reid have agreed to a four-year extension.**
  - This is a crucial step toward providing the intelligence community with the certainty to help protect America from attack.
  - Congress must act on this expiring legislation before adjourning for the Memorial Day recess.

###

May 25, 2011